

NOTIFICATIONS

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PRALINES, SUGARED ALMONDS,
BURNT ALMONDS, NOUGAT, JIJUBES,
TURKISH DELIGHT, PARISIANS, etc.,
etc., etc.

All of the purest manufacture and
best quality.

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ASSORTED PINEAPPLE, LIME, DAM-
SON, GUAVA, RASPBERRY, STRAW-
BERRY, PLUM, etc.

Very suitable for table use.

GALLARD AND BOWSER'S
BUTTER, SOUP, ALMOND ROCK,
and EVERTON TOFFEE.

CADBURYS CHOCOLATES
in great variety,
CRYSTALLIZED FRUITS, MUSCATELS,
ALMONDS, and FIGS.

FANCY BOXES:
A large and varied assortment of
ARTISTIC DESIGNS.

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A tasteful and well assorted stock.

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THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY.
ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.
Only communications relating to the news columns
will be accepted. The Editor
correspondence is not responsible for the return of
address, with communications addressed to the
Editor, not for publication, but as evidence of good
faith.

On the 11th January, at 10 o'clock, the
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or drink him. But the law practically takes
no cognizance of her; it was made solely on
behalf of the male sex, and confers on her no
rights, no privileges, no protection. The only
case in which the administration takes favour-
able notice of woman is when she shows
special devotion to man by that last and un-
derstandable sacrifice, the laying down of her life.
The performance of duties by widows is prac-
tically encouraged by the Government in
China. The Imperial award of honorary
tablets to the memory of widows and *fandou*
who, desiring to survive their husbands, have
committed suicide. Instances of such awards are frequently
to be found in the pages of the *Peking Gazette*.
The Chinese invariably lauding the virtue
and constancy of the deceased in the most
fervent terms.

The Chinese female child comes into the
world unloved, and through life is
treated as an appendage or a chattel. If
she is a humble life, if she escapes being
drowned like a kitten in a tub of water or
beaten like a slave, she is liable to be sold
as a slave or her parents feel the burden of
her maintenance. In this case her lot is
sure to be a hard one and may prove one of
infamy. The best that can happen to her
would be her purchase as a concubine to a
wealthy man, but even then she would be
subject to the lawless mistress of the house-
hold, and unless she became the mother of a
favourite son her position would be little
better than that of a servant. There are
no agencies in China for the elevation of
woman, no means of elevating the hum-
drum routine attending her life. Even
amongst the wealthier classes female educa-
tion is confined to the slenderest knowledge
of the written character; few are taught to
write or read the classics; the acquisition of
a few poems and moral sayings, and how to
play chess and paint a little, is about the
limit to which their instruction goes.
Chinese have no desire for accomplish-
ments in their women, and their social
ethics preclude the idea of teaching them
either philosophy or science. Religion is to
the Chinese woman only a name for the
grossest superstition and the practice of
rites as a means of degrading to the
understanding. She is consequently only
fitted to be a toy, to be the slave of the
passions of her master or husband, and
can seldom prove either companion or con-
fident. Not that the Chinese woman is in-
ferior in either intelligence or
vivacity to the male sex. She is only weak
law and custom have made her. Her mind
is empty because it has never, through all
the cycles, been cultivated. Her
topics of conversation are necessarily
confined to the sordid details of the do-
mestic economy, and her interests are
bound by the walls of her dwelling. If
the family embraces a plurality of wives or
mistresses, jealousy and backbiting consume
her time and exhaust her temper; if she be
childless, lamentations and fruitless resort
to sorcery render life one long sorrow and
disappointment. The present conditions of
female life in China being therefore so un-
satisfactory, it is interesting to note any
indication of a change of opinion in this
direction. A Shanghai native paper has
recently been advocating the universal educa-
tion of female children in China, and ex-
presses the belief that if such a course be
adopted a great change would soon be
perceptible in the social conditions. It is
true that the journal in question is in a measure
under foreign influence, but there is no reason
to suppose that the article was not the
voluntary production of a Chinese writer,
and as such may fairly be taken as a sign of
a slow-growing change in Chinese thought
after contact with Western ideas and exam-
ples.

While however, the appearance of such
an expression of opinion in a Chinese journal
is an encouraging sign, it would be for us
to attach too much importance to it or for us
momentarily ignore the stupendous obstacles
to the emancipation of the female lot in
China. Even in Western countries the
emancipation of woman has been a matter
of the past gradual growth and is not yet
complete. In Great Britain the exercise
of the suffrage is still denied to her, and she
suffers from other disabilities which require
abolition. If such be the case in our own
free and enlightened country, where woman
is held in signal honour and respect, how
difficult must it prove to effect any sub-
stantial improvement in the condition of the
sex in conservative China! At the very
outset the reformer will be confronted by an
apparently insurmountable obstacle, viz.,
ancestral worship. This practice, which is
indeed the national religion of China, is at
the root of female degradation as it is
the primary cause of the over population of
the Empire. It imposes on the Chi-
nese man the necessity of early marriage,
whatever his circumstances; it begets the
desire for male offspring at any price; it
depreciates the value of female children, and
is the main cause of infanticide and the de-
gradation of woman. Nor is this all. The
contempt and distrust of their women
thus engendered are said to be mainly re-
sponsible for the heartless and degrading
habit of footbinding. This practice or fashion,
by which the feet of the women of a vast
nation are rendered ridiculous-cripples in-
capable of walking any distance, confirms
their subjection and completes their degra-
dation. So long as the worship of ancestors
exists such a premium on male children, and
the practice of footbinding reduces women
to the position of a bone-keeping cripple, there
can be little improvement in her lot.
Education alone will not achieve her em-
ancipation. It may teach her to revolt from
her state of servility; it may procure for her
some measure of deference and courtesy on
the part of the opposite sex, but it cannot
bring her recognition by the law, or secure
her immunity from sale into bondage and
injustice from the administration.
The dependence and subjection of woman
as much an article of religion and
societies in China, deep seated and
rooted through centuries of centuries, that
short of a mighty revolution nothing but a
gradual growth of opinion extending through
several generations at least, seems likely to
effect a permanent alteration in the status
and condition of the female sex. Yet a be-
ginning must be made some time, and per-
haps it is not too much to hope that the
seed now being planted from which the

reform is to spring. The propagation of
Christianity should do something towards
this end, but it must be accompanied by a
denunciation of war against that vicious
and inhuman system of footbinding. Fe-
male education will also have effect in
course of time, as the use of uneducated
women deforms the feet and destroys the
grace of carriage which ordinarily imparts
so great a charm to the female figure.
In Hongkong, after many years of indiffer-
ence in this matter, the Government has
tardily acknowledged its duty and opened
a public school for Chinese girls, where
they can learn freely the useful knowledge
accessible to their sisters of the West. It
is to be hoped that many good and sensible
women will thus be educated, who, perchance,
scattered here and there through South China,
may secure by their attainments greater re-
spect for women amongst men and a general
desire for knowledge on the part of their
less fortunate sisters.

The following telegram dated Tokyo, last night,
appears in the *Yokohama Specimen*. It is
from the Naval Department and has been
forwarded to the Hongkong Government.
The *Chishima* disaster was caused through the
neglect of her crew. On the 14th instant,
the *Chishima* was wrecked on the coast of
Honshu, and the crew were rescued. The
disaster was caused through the neglect of
the crew, and the ship was wrecked on the
coast of Honshu.

The Band of the 1st Shanghai Light Infantry
will play the following programme at the
Officers Mess, Murray Barracks, this evening.
The programme is as follows:
1. "The Band of the 1st Shanghai Light Infantry"
2. "The Band of the 1st Shanghai Light Infantry"
3. "The Band of the 1st Shanghai Light Infantry"

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